

Little Bridges News

July 2024



Calendar of Events

CLOSED: Fourth of July

Thursday 7/4

CLOSED: Staff Training

Monday 8/12

Tuesday 8/13

New Class Orientation

Tuesday 8/13

9:00 – 9:45 am

First Day of School

Wednesday 8/14

First Day of School Age

Minimum Day

Wednesday 8/14

CLOSED – Labor Day

Monday 9/2

Back To School Night

For preschool only

Thursday 9/5

6:30pm

Teacher Training/In-Service Days

Little Bridges will be closed on Monday, August 12th and Tuesday, August 13th for teacher training/in-service days. We will be using these days for professional development, curriculum enrichment and team building fun!

New School Year Information

Keep a look out for re-enrollment emails from us soon. We will be sending out 2024-2025 admission agreements through Brightwheel in the next few weeks. Classroom assignments and specific information from your child's teachers will be available August 1st. Please read all of the information carefully as it will include the yearly curriculum plan, daily classroom schedules, upgraded teacher bios and our 24/25 calendar.

Summer at Little Bridges

Summer months may seem more lazy, but here at Little Bridges we keep up the regular school pace. Our curriculum is a year-long program that runs from August to August. We continue to build on concepts and skills we have been working on all year - however, we also believe that summer should be extra fun for kids! Out themes this summer include "Great-Get-Aways", "Down & Dirty", "Wet & Wild" and "Crazy Carnival". Our all school carnival is schedule for July 19th.

Little Bridges Orientation Tues., August 13th

New Student Orientation Day will be held August 13th. Any child transitioning into a new room or program in the fall is invited to check out his/her new classroom. We hope that a brief visit with your child's new teachers and environment will help make for an easy transition on their first day of school. All classrooms will be open to new families between 9:00am – 9:45am. Because this is a teacher training/in-service day we have to keep the orientation brief.

Full Day TK at Little Bridges starting this Fall!

We still have two spots left in our Full Day Transitional Kindergarten class that will start on August 14th. This 8:00am – 2:30pm program will be taught by our very own Ms. Diana. She is a gifted and talented teacher who not only has a multi-subject teaching credential but also holds degrees in Mind, Brain and Education.

If you are interested in learning more about this class, come by and talk to Ms. Jacque. Children must turn 5 between Sept 2 – June 2 to be eligible.

Understanding Your Toddler

Toddlers are pint-size drama kings and queens. One minute they want to cuddle in your lap, and the next, they're dodging your hugs. Yesterday they loved macaroni and cheese; today they slap it away. Because little kids often don't have the words to articulate what they want or feel, they have to act out in a big way to get any point across. (Imagine the wild gestures you'd make in a world where nobody understood you.) Though their outbursts may seem random, their motivations are fairly constant: independence, stability, playfulness, greed. Below are some scenarios that you may have experienced and the words your toddler is REALLY trying to say.

Scenario #1

Your 1-year-old dives into the stacks of laundry that you've just folded. You gently say, "Stop, sweetie." She grins and re-launches. Your voice gets sharper: "Stay away from that laundry!" She gleefully kicks it instead. Now you're yelling: "Quit it!" She backs off, startled by your tone.

Translation: "If you want me to stop, just say, 'No.' I don't understand complex phrases like 'Get away from there!' And why do you want me to stop anyway? If you're touching the clothes, then I want to do it too."

Better Tot Tactic: Words like 'don't' and 'not' can confuse your toddler. When you say "Don't touch that," her brain breezes over the first part and just hears, "Touch that." Simply say, "No." Then say it again and again. Better yet, find a way to say "Yes" that lets her in on the action. For instance, let her climb in and out of your laundry basket.

Scenario #2

For weeks you've been planning a trip to the circus, a chance to relive a fun family tradition from your own childhood. But as you sit in your ringside seats and the action starts, your toddler bursts into tears and wants to go home.

Translation: "This is too loud and flashy. Everyone's jumping around with weird clothes on. They're acting like a playgroup on steroids. I'm outta here."

Better Tot Tactic: A lot of things you think will delight your child may actually scare him. Prepare him for big outings like the circus, a photo op with Santa, or a birthday party by checking out some library books and videos that depict similar scenes. Talk about what will happen at the event. That way, on "game day" some of the new sights and sounds will feel familiar.

Scenario #3

At the park, your toddler is contentedly digging in the sand. You spy a duck in the pond nearby—something you know she would love. You try to coax her over, but she refuses to leave her boring pile of dirt.

Translation: "When I'm actively engaged in something, don't try to divert my attention to something that you think should be more fun. The trouble of the transition may just not be worth it."

Better Tot Tactic: It's natural to want to share everything new and fantastic with your child, but toddlers need to move at their own pace. Build on what your child's already engaged in. Uninterrupted play improves her attention span—something that you'll be grateful for later.

Scenario #4

While sorting shapes, your 18-month-old repeatedly tries to jam a triangle into a square hole. You take it from him and plop it into the right opening to show him how it works. He flips out—and throws an octagon at your head.

Translation: "What part of 'Back off!' don't you understand? How do I know this shape won't fit unless I try it from every angle? I'm learning what I'm capable of doing and what I'm not. Plus, I'm practicing my fine motor skills."

Better Tot Tactic: Before taking over when your toddler's struggling, ask if he needs help. If he refuses your offer, but still gets frustrated, try gently guiding his hand while letting him complete the task. It can take a surprising amount of patience to hang back: Just as your child is adjusting to being able to do a little more, you must adjust to being needed a little less.

Scenario #5

Your toddler can't get enough of the word "no." You ask whether he's hungry. "No!" he retorts, while scarfing down a cracker. "Let's play with Elmo," you suggest. Another "No!" as he grabs the red muppet.

Translation: "I like to say 'No!' because it's one of the few words I know. And I feel powerful when you react."

Better Tot Tactic: Let your naysayer assert his individuality. If he obviously wants what you're offering, calmly give it to him and move on. Also, a playful approach may encourage cooperation. For instance, if "Do you want to eat dinner?" doesn't work, try "Yum, this chicken is delicious. I'm going to eat it all up."

Scenario #6

At the playground, your toddler normally wants to hold your hand while she goes down the slide. Today she orders you to stand back. On the way home, she refuses to walk and insists that you carry her instead.

Translation: "Sometimes I want to be big. Sometimes I want to be a baby again. And sometimes I want to be both at the same time. I know it's hard for you to understand. I don't understand it myself."

Better Tot Tactic: Accommodate your child's fickle ways, and try not to be offended when she pushes you away. Your 2-year-old is struggling for independence. Knowing that you're there for her will give her the confidence to venture out. Toddlers can feel overwhelmed by so many new feelings, abilities, and possibilities—in the same way teenagers do. The downside is that unlike teens, toddlers can't talk about it. The upside? Toddlers can't talk back.